

Imula Polenisia

A Bimonthly Newsletter from the
Polynesian Cultural Center

President Orgill: One Year Later

What a great occasion the first anniversary of our new night show was on August 14, 2010. As I joined the cast backstage before the show that evening a flood of memories filled my mind as I realized it wasn't just one, but four years ago that we first started planning this amazingly special experience we now call, "Ha: Breath of Life"; and, of course, we've only been building on the legacy, tradition and history of the thousands who created and energized this unique treasure we call the PCC over these past 47 years.

Many of those who were in the original night show have come to my office, called or emailed me, saying over and over again, "I have been to every night show that the PCC has ever produced. All of them were wonderful, but none of them were as special as the first one — until now."

Then they've said, with tears in their eyes, how strong the Spirit has been when they watch "Ha." That's the hallmark of "Ha: Breath of Life." We're telling the story of life — the story of the gospel — the story of family — the meaning of relationships, caring, love, devotion and the importance of service and reaching out to those in need. We're sharing with the world that there is a higher purpose in our lives here, and there is a Higher Power we may turn to in our hour of need. All of this can only be told with and through the Spirit of the Lord. That's what makes it work. That's what touches people's hearts. That's what lifts their eyes toward the things that matter most.

I was also thinking about what was hap-

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President Orgill (center, right) and cast members celebrate the first anniversary of Ha: Breath of Life on August 14, 2010. Over a half-million people have already seen the PCC's new night show. (Photo by Mike Foley)

HA: Breath of Life marks first anniversary

"Exceeded all of our expectations" is the most common answer when members of the Officer Team and Theater staff reply to how the new night show, Ha: Breath of Life, has done in its first year — and indeed it has, but that only tells part of the story.

Since Ha officially premiered on August 14, 2009, over a half-million people have seen the uniquely Polynesian circle-of-life story, and responded with standing ovations and repeat visits.

"We wanted it to be successful and something that people would enjoy, but we didn't really expect it to have the success that it has, where people keep coming back week after week," said Delsa Moe, PCC Director of Cultural Presentations.

For example, one guest recently commented online that Ha is "a totally excellent show and a highlight of the visit." Another

wrote: "The new show 'Ha' is amazing! It is a can't-miss, especially the end." And one more: "I loved the Polynesian Cultural Center. The luau, food, and the 'Breath of Life' show was wonderful at the end."

"This has also been a real hit with our kamaaina market. We have regulars that come on a weekly basis," Moe continued. "That's very pleasing, because we know that

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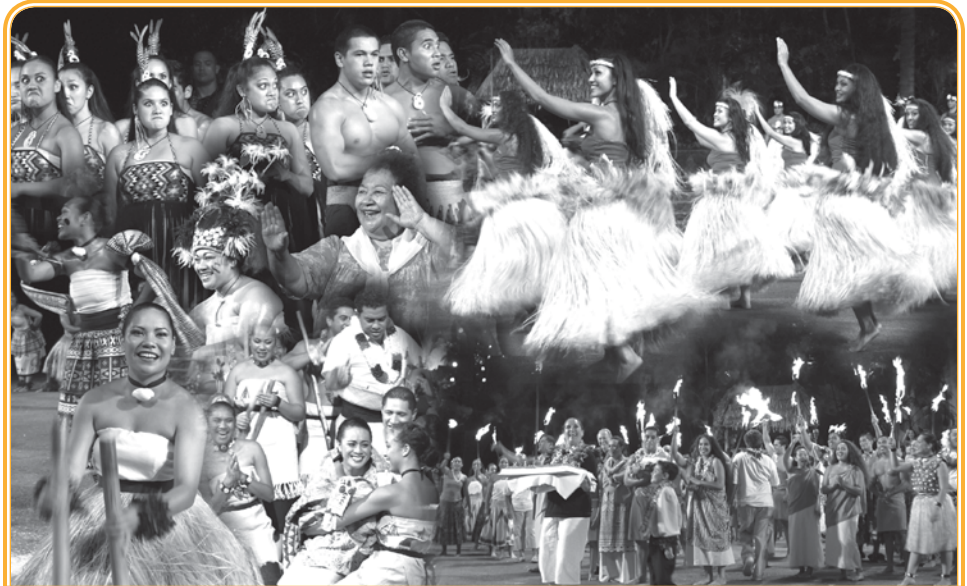
HA: First anniversary...

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anything that the kamaaina like will have good word-of-mouth pull for us with our regular visitors.”

Moe added that the PCC continues to polish and refine Ha. For example, she said, “When we opened the show last year we were still operating under existing lighting, because we didn’t have the infrastructure and upgrades in place yet to support the new equipment. We’ve continued since then to install new lighting, which gives the show so much more visual character. About a month ago we got in brand new spotlights, and we’re still not done. We’ve got a lot more lighting to install as our electricians are able to complete different phases of preparation.”

Other changes are more personal. For instance, Rick Suaava, who plays the lead role of Mana, said, “It has been a great and awesome journey. I’ve gotten married in the past year, and the this show has really brought new meaning to my relationships



FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Over 100 cast and crew members staged and celebrated the first anniversary of Ha: Breath of Life on August 14, 2010. Refinements, new cast training...and audience satisfaction are ongoing. (photos and montage by Mike Foley)

and my life, and learning how to approach aspects of my life a little differently. It’s been exciting and worth it.”

Like Suaava, Atu Vaka, who plays the role of Mana’s father, has also recently married. “It’s been an awesome year, because now I

have my own son. It’s amazing how our lives have changed since we’ve been doing the show,” he said.

Cultural Performance Manager David Tiave said in reviewing tapes of the show from a year ago, he noticed “that lots of kids have gone on missions and graduated since then, but it’s exciting to see the many new kids we now have in the cast.”

For the new cast members, Moe stressed they’re not just learning songs and dances. “The thing that makes this show unique is the feeling — not so much how well the motions are executed, but how well they portray the spirit of the Ha so it connects with the audience — of not just doing the motions but putting themselves in the scene so that they emotionally portray the feeling we want the audience to get.”

“I would guess because of the popularity of Ha, it’s going to be around for a long time. Having said that, I don’t think the choreography will remain the same over the coming years. We can actually go in and make changes and upgrades from time to time without losing the story element,” she said.

“We already have some things planned that we would like to do to strengthen the story a little more, so that as people return they notice, hey, this is different; but it’s still the story of Mana growing from a baby to manhood and having his own family. I hope Ha is around for a long time: It’s a very good show.”

One year later...

Continued from page 1

pening one year ago when we were all praying everything would work well and that the equipment would function properly. Do you remember we received a lot of the equipment just a few days before the opening, and we were having all kinds of trouble installing and getting it to work? Many were fasting that the Lord’s Spirit would be with us, and that everything would come together in time for the opening. The Lord was kind to us and the event was everything we were hoping for and more. The guests were touched, amazed, inspired and thrilled with what they experienced. How blessed we were that night and how blessed we’ve been every day since.

I had the privilege on the night of the premiere to pronounce a priesthood blessing on several of the lead characters in “Ha.” I want all of you to know that as I had my hands on their heads, the Lord not only poured out a blessing upon them, He also told them how important this place and this work is, how important this show is, and how it would touch the lives of countless thousands of people across this entire earth.

That helped me to understand and appreciate even more how important each of you is, and how important what you’re doing here now is, and will always be.

It has been my prayer each and every night since then that all at the Center will continue to perform with the Spirit of the Lord, and that the Spirit will continue to radiate from you to every single person who visits us, and that they will carry that Spirit with them wherever they go.

That’s exactly what’s been happening. I thank you for that. I thank you for being worthy to have the Lord’s Spirit with you. I thank you for preparing yourselves to share with everyone who comes here, and for making a difference in all of their lives.

I pray a further blessing to be upon you that the Lord’s Spirit may continue to be with you, so you, with His help, may carry yourselves and those who visit this special place ever closer to Him.

Von D. Orgill
President & CEO



TE KOHAU HAWAIIKI — led by Iraia and Miriama Bailey, Alex and Shannon Galea'i, and Tama Halvorson — won the overall championship in the 2010 Te Manahua kapa haka competition. Second place overall went to Ngati Ranana from London, England; and third place to Te Kura o Tongariro from Turangi, New Zealand. (photos by Mike Foley)

Laie group wins overall Te Manahua 2010 title

Every other year the tamariki or kids are so cute and talented, but for sheer excitement and thrills there's no beating the seniors who whole-heartedly shared their love of Maori kapa haka or traditional songs and dances on August 14, 2010, during the Polynesian Cultural Center's eleventh annual Te Manahua special event.

In a word, this year's Te Manahua festival was fantastic. And while the judges — all from New Zealand and widely recognized for their own kapa haka expertise — awarded the aggregate or overall championship to Laie-based Te Kohau Hawaiiiki. The performances by the other participating groups were also highly enjoyable.

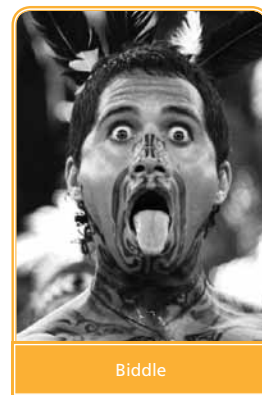
In winning, Iraia and Miriama Bailey, Alex and Shannon Galea'i, and Tama Halvorson founded Te Kohau Hawaiiiki four months ago. Ngati Ranana, a group comprised mostly of expatriate Maori living in London, England, followed in second place overall; and third-place overall honors went to Te Kura o Tongariro, a group of 22 students from Tongariro High School in Turangi, New Zealand.

Nga Uri a Te-Wai-o-Taiki, an "urban marae" group from the Glen Innes suburb of Auckland, also competed in the aggregate division, while another Laie-based group, Te Hokioi, led by Seamus Fitzgerald — PCC Islands of Aotearoa manager — and Sonne Campbell, performed in support of the oth-

ers but did not compete.

The visiting groups especially liked performing at the PCC. For example, Kiwi Biddle, the manukura tane or male lead of the group from London, said, "The PCC is beautiful. It's like a slice of heaven here." He also explained their group did fundraising for about the past six months, which raised half the money they needed for the 16-hour flight, each way (with a stopover in Los Angeles). This is the second time Ngati Ranana has competed in Te Manahua.

Biddle — a native Maori speaker from Opotiki, New Zealand who's in England on a two-year work experience — praised his fellow Ngati Ranana members "for their mahi — their hard work, and long journey. We let it all rip on the stage, and I was happy with our second-place finish. We were blown away by the Hawaii group. They were awesome."



Biddle

Grace Marsh, manager of the Tongariro group and a teacher at the high school, said their students "had an absolute lifetime experience that we would never have been able to

give them again, probably ever. For some of them, this will probably be the first and last time they ever come to Hawaii." She added that the group spent two-and-a-half years of fundraising to make the trip, and that "four or five of them would absolutely love to come back here for school."

During the awards, senior judge Donna M. Grant also presented National Certificates in Maori Performing Arts that are recognized throughout Aotearoa to Iraia and Miriama Bailey, Jason Smith and Destinee Robinson. Grant explained qualifying for the certificates requires demonstrating skills in poi, haka, waiata-a-ringa (action songs), moteatea (chants), and entry and exits "at the highest possible level"; and she added that recipients are also required to do research into the ancestral origins of these skills.

HAKA HARD AND POI E

On the Friday evening before, members of the groups and fans packed the whare nui or meeting house in the PCC Islands of Aotearoa to watch Haka Hard and Poi E — competitions featuring up to five people performing for no more than four minutes.

After all the excitement and fun, the young men and women of Te Kura o Tongariro walked off with top prizes in both categories.

MANA AND WAIRUA

Summarizing the 2010 Te Manahua festival, Fitzgerald said, "The mana could be felt from every competitor throughout the whakataetae [competition]. It's truly amazing to have groups from all over the world gather at the PCC to showcase Maori culture."

"In all of their performances, competitors exuded immense pride and represented the vibrant wairua [spirit] of the Maori culture, which is really what the PCC is all about, giving everyone a deeper understanding and appreciation of all of the cultures that make up Polynesia."

More special events...



HAUNTED LAGOON 2010

You might want to look over your shoulder a bit more after dark, because before you know it the Laie Lady will be back, wandering the PCC lagoon, on the following schedule:

- **October 1–23:** On Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday only
- **October 25–30:** Monday–Saturday
- Canoes run from 6:30 p.m.
- The Box Office is open from 4–8 p.m., subject to ticket availability.
- Closed on Sundays and Halloween

Because more than 44,000 people were brave enough last year to take their chances on the scary canoe ride, this year promises to be even better.



TAHITIAN! Over 100 tamari'i and seniors competed in the PCC's tenth annual Te Mahana Hiro'a o Tahiti event on July 17 in the Pacific Theater.
(photo by Mike Foley)

Employees are encouraged to ride early in the month: There is a \$6 charge, good only for employees on Mondays and Wednesdays, and PCC ID is required. Otherwise, FYI, charges for the Haunted Lagoon are:

- Free for Kamaaina Annual Pass holders on Monday and Wednesday through October 20. For the remainder of the event, including Fridays and Saturdays, 50% off the regular kamaaina rate of \$19.50 per adult (16-and-up), and \$14.50 for keiki (ages 5–15).
- The nonresident price is \$25 for adults and \$20 for kids.
- There is a \$5 discount on Wednesdays with a Pepsi product, and a \$3-off coupon is available from 7-Eleven stores. The discounts cannot be combined. For more information, call Reservations at 293-3333.

And the awards go to...

In the PCC team meeting on August 20, Compensation Manager Kathy Tollesen cited several examples of outstanding customer service. Two of them follow:

Shortly after a Mr. Hayashi from Japan arrived at the Center, he suffered a heart attack. Not breathing and with no pulse, Elder Newgren performed CPR while Elder McDonald did mouth-to-mouth ventilation until the emergency crew arrived. Security supervisor Liufau and Japanese guide Sonoka Sato accompanied Mrs. Hayashi, his wife who did not speak English, first to Kahuku Hospital, next to Wahiawa Hospital, and then to Queen's Hospital in Honolulu.

"The staff at Queen's could not believe the extra-mile efforts of our PCC employees," Tollesen said.

She also shared the following remarks from a VIP visitor who wrote: "Thank you so much for this life-changing experience. We absolutely love the island people for the love and warmth they exude... We had a wonderful time together and created memories that will last a lifetime. Our visit to the Polynesian Cultural Center is far and away the highlight of our Hawaii vacation. We felt the spirit of aloha throughout the day."

DEPARTMENT SERVICE RECOGNITION

Food & Beverage for July: Lili Filipo,

Wendy Lau, Jade-Lin Leong, Wesley Kekauoha, Matilda Liva, Phillip Mateo, Losa Moors, Welser Tropia, Alopa Tu'ifua, Geralyn Ty Chico and Cornelis Versteeg. For April–June: Hau Sian Thang, Angella Dabb, Ataruru Toaraa, Fatuimoana Tuifua, Ofeina Unga, Paul Merrill, Michael Brown, Scott Ault, Sri Yoga, Evelyn Angeles, Adam Ford, Tess Harris, Chef Chris Mercier, Luisa Piutau, Genevieve Touli, Ina Toaraa, Vonnice Fereti, Raze Liva, Mele Latu, Michele Nakayama, Munkh-Undarga Mendbayar, Tio-tala Leiataua, Heyleen Molitika, Kalolaine Vaka, Tomai Siilata, Atish Kumar, Jocelyn Lopez, Elizabeth Molitika and Lili Filipo.

Islands, July: Douglas Christy, Otis Fruean, Christopher Bresee, Ilaisaane Kauvaka, Rabici Vuikadavu, Apisalome Tora, and William Keanu. For April–June: Tevita Takufuka, John Milford, Semisi Tukia, Seamus Fitzgerald, Raymond Mokiao, George Tovo, Tofa Tuita, Tevita Latu, Noelani Tonumaip'e'a, Joslyn Beaver, Toakase Funaki, Kathleen Walters, Destinee Robinson, Chloe Shepherd, Steve La'ulu, Semisi Fakatava, Eseta Toelupe and Ama Taufaitoa.

In-Center Marketing, July: Keali'i Haverly

Guest Services, July: Diliaa Balakchieva, Jarom Ah Quin, Kosheila Ravindra, Nana Tonami, Sang Hoon Lee, Medel Hernandez, Merie Passil, Sanshiro Nagano, Alexander Bailey, Denzil Kumar, Andrew Wight, Nakia Naeole, Pablo Gariando, Chintuya Otgonsuren, and Liam Strong.

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CONGRATULATIONS to PCC Promo Team member Lucie Poehere Wilson who won the 2010 Miss Tahiti title in Papeete on June 25. Lucie is the daughter of Christian and Patricia Hutihuti Wilson of Laie (Matahi Vairaa photo)

Two new people join PCC staff

HAL CHU • ASSISTANT CONTROLLER

Our new Assistant Controller, Hal Chu, who is originally from Hong Kong, came to BYU–Hawaii almost 30 years ago, graduating in 1987 in accounting and business information systems. He went on to earn an MBA from UH, and eventually worked as the vice president of finance for the U.S. division of Natuzzi Americas Inc. in High Point, North Carolina, before returning.

He explained he came back last May to meet his future son-in-law. “My daughter and her fiancé were friends of President Orgill, and I was very impressed with the operation and people here,” Chu said. Of course, as a student he worked first for MIS, then in the Business Office, but was known in those days as Halacy.

The Chu’s have four children, one of them actually born at TVA when they were in school.

“I feel like I’ve come back home, and that there’s a special purpose for us to be here,” he said. “I think our lives will be changed, and maybe some other people’s lives, too.”

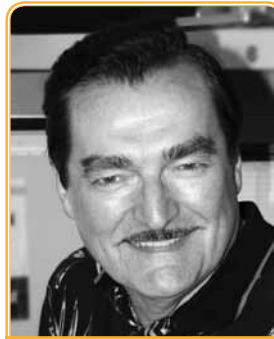
NICK DUBOVSKY • GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Dubovsky, who has over 40 years of graphic design experience — primarily on the East Coast, recently joined the PCC marketing team as our graphic designer. During his career, he has worked for newspapers, advertising agencies, as an art director, and has created advertising for Fortune 500 companies. But in 2009, after visiting Hawaii almost 30 times, he married a Honolulu business journalist. The couple now lives in Pacific Palisades.

“I first came to Hawaii in ’97, and I didn’t want to leave,” Dubovsky said. “The PCC was a great place, and it’s changed quite a bit since then. I thought working here would be

a dream job, and the opportunity finally arose.”

On his own time, Dubovsky said, “I love painting, drawing and watercolors. When I retire I’ll probably devote a lot more time to that.” For now, however, Dubovsky said his PCC colleagues “are the best people, bar none. They are the most sincere people I’ve had the pleasure of working with.”



Dubovsky



Chu

Awards...

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Physical Facilities: Charlie Garduque, Avea Asotafao, Hamana Leong, Virgilio Badua, Liufau Tuifua, Hanuafo’ou Sheffert, LeGrand Hekau and Leroy Chricton.

Reservations, July: Sally Mapu, Cori Fitiseanu, Pouli Magalei Jr. and Stephany Dela Cruz. For April–June: Diana Niumat-alolo and Dee Ann Tofa.

Theater: Halam Ah Quin, Taofi Magalei and Tevin-Jordan Ulii.

Guides, April–June: Kosh Ravinda, Michael Bailey, Stephanie Bouzie, Livini Tu-

wai, Pablo Gariando, Diliiana Balakchieva, Moeunsara Meas, Lloyd Pekitpekkit, Matthew Hyatt and Gombo Chuluun.

CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

At the August 20 and at the July 23 PCC team meetings Tollesen also announced the following Clean-up Campaign winners:

- July: 1st place, Hawaii; 2nd place, Fiji; 3rd place, Motor Pool, Samoa and Tahiti.
- June: 1st place, Hawaii Mission Settlement; 2nd, Banyan Tree; 3rd, MIS.
- May: 1st, Fiji again; 2nd, Hawaii Mission Settlement and Aotearoa; and 3rd, Laundry and Seamstresses.
- April: 1st place, Fiji; 2nd place, The Gateway, Ambassador and Hale Aloha; and 3rd place, Hawaii.

Tollesen also announced a new “out-standing support” clean-up category, with awards in June going to Purchasing and Motor Pool; and in July to Nursery and the Business Office.



MORE MAORI: The PCC Islands of Aotearoa and the community welcomed Napier, New Zealand-based Te Panekiretanga o Te Reo Maori to the marae on July 27, 2010, in an impressive powhiri...because all members of the visiting group are selected for their skills in Maori language and cultural arts. (photo by Mike Foley)

Meet the New Service Missionaries

ELDER STEVE & SISTER DAWN JOHNSTON

First, kala mai to the Johnstons, who were inadvertently left out of the last issue of Imua. They arrived from their home in El Cajon, California (near San Diego) in March on their 12-month mission. He is a welder, and she is assigned to Human Resources.



The Johnstons

Elder Johnston retired three-plus years ago after working for almost 40 years as a Local 12 Operating Engineers heavy equipment repair and welding specialist.

Sister Johnston was a preschool and parent-ed teacher for a total of about 20 years before retiring. She earned a degree in home economics from Northern Arizona University and master's degree in child development from San Diego State. She added that her two sisters previously attended CCH in the early 60s, and all three subsequently joined the Church. "Now we're back where it started, on our mission," she said.

The couple, who have been married over 40 years and have three children and seven grandchildren, previously visited the Center on their twentieth anniversary. "I love the people," she said, "and everybody's helpful here." He added he also works with "great people. We're really enjoying ourselves here."

The Johnstons also act as student mentors in the BYU-Hawaii 1st Stake. "We love that, too," she said.

ELDER DON & SISTER CHARLENE KIMBALL

The Kimbells arrived August 14, 2010, from Sandy, Utah, to begin serving an 18-month mission. He is assigned to the Finance Office, and she divides her time between the Seamstresses and the Hawaii Mission Settlement. They previously served an inner-city mission in Salt Lake City.

Elder Kimball, who was born in Honolulu (his father was the Boy Scout executive at the time), danced with the Kia Ora Club at BYU for three years and also served a mission in between in New Zealand in the early 1960s. After graduating from BYU, working for Price Waterhouse and qualifying for his CPA, he worked for a number of other large companies and was part-owner of a management consulting company in the San Francisco Bay area for 16 years.

He then semi-retired for about 10 years, but during that time he raised Muscovy Ducks and filled in for another couple who went on a senior mission by collecting owl pellets that biology students use to learn about skeletons. In his spare time, Elder Kimball said he's a "rock hound. I've got a basement full of rocks and equipment."



The Kimbells

Before retiring for good, the couple moved to Utah where he worked for several large banks in the tax trust department, and the last two years for KPMG doing the same thing in Phoenix, Arizona.

Sister Kimball, who earned a degree in interior

design from BYU, has been a homemaker. The couple has five children and four grandchildren. Before moving to Sandy, they previously lived in the Bay area for about 30 years.

They first came to the PCC in 1979 as tourists, and are happy to be back. "I think this will be a fun place to work. I love it," Sister Kimball said. "It's wonderful to be back in the islands again," he added. "It feels like coming home."

* * * * *

In other missionary news, the Remunds who previously served from 2008–09, are returning as volunteers to help with the Haunted Lagoon; and the Rexes, who are currently serving, will extend for a month as volunteers to also help.

Temple 'open house' set

For only the second time in the past 90 years, everyone is invited to participate in a free "open house" tour of the Laie Hawaii Temple on the following schedule:

- **October 22–23 and October 25–30:** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **November 1–6 and November 8–13:** 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **November 20:** A cultural celebration, by invitation only (but broadcast to all meetinghouses with satellite capability), will be held in the BYUH CAC.
- **November 21:** Rededication sessions, by ticket only, at 9 a.m., noon and 3 p.m., with broadcasts to all chapels with satellite capability in the Laie and Kona Hawaii Temple districts.
- **November 23:** The Laie Hawaii Temple reopens for regular ordinance work.

The PCC will offer this rare opportunity for our visitors to go inside the temple as part of the Laie Tour: The tour leaves the PCC every 20 minutes. In October the last Laie Tour PCC guests can take to include the open house leaves at 2 p.m. and at 6 p.m. in November.



55-370 Kamehameha Highway, Laie, HI 96762
Please visit us at: www.polynesia.com